

Traffic Calming Measures at Thompson School and North Union Park

The below emails were sent to me in preparation for presenting the need for traffic calming measures at Thompson School / North Union Park. This agenda item had been scheduled for March 11, 2020 and was cancelled due to the coronavirus. I have not heard of a future schedule for this item to be reviewed by TAC but want to ensure that the community's concerns are received and considered by the Committee. Please contact me with any questions. I am still happy to present our concerns during a TAC meeting, whether virtual or in person.

Leah Broder
44 Michael Street
leahbroder@gmail.com

From: elizabeth Drew <edrew1977@gmail.com>
Subject: Transportation Advisory committee meeting
Date: March 11, 2020 at 5:37:16 PM EDT
To: leahbroder@gmail.com

Hello Leah,

My name is Liz OBrien-Drew my son goes to Thompson, he is in second grade and I had hoped to go tonight to see what you were planning to talk about? I have some thoughts regarding the area of Thompson school. Although my thoughts do not relate so much to the congestion I have more concerns regarding the safety of the children that walk/bike to school.

1. Crosswalk safety. Placing a "smart crosswalk" at the crossing over River Street to University.
2. Crosswalk safety. "Smart Crosswalk" crossing N. Union by Purcell and Fremont.
3. Discussion of bike lanes around the school, as a majority of our children and parents ride bikes to and from the school.

As for congestion there is green space located on Everett that could provide a drop off/pick up loop. I am not really interested in adding more concrete to the area but could see something like this being useful and helping with the pick up/ drop off flow. These are just my thoughts and some quick observations I would love to help support you in anyway to improve the traffic flow to and from the Thompson school.

Thank you

Liz

From: Regina Walton <regina.l.walton@gmail.com>
Subject: Traffic advisory for Thompson
Date: March 9, 2020 at 11:58:27 AM EDT
To: leahbroder@gmail.com

Hello Leah,

I'm replying to Principal Donato's email about traffic calming measures and the TAC.

I suggest that you raise to the TAC the need for a speed bump or speed bump on River St. near the University Rd. Intersection where the Crossing Guard (Rose) is stationed. I am a River St. resident, and I'm pretty concerned about how fast people drive down River St. Rose frequently employs her whistle. Also, kids walk home from activities after the crossing guards are gone, and must cross River St. on their own, when cars are coming fast. The traffic humps by the school on Cross St. in Belmont are a good model for what I'm thinking of—that is a street similar to River, near a school.

Best wishes,
Regina Walton, mom to Thompson 3rd grader

From: Yael Beals <yael.beals@gmail.com>
Subject: traffic and pedestrian safety Thompson School
Date: March 11, 2020 at 11:09:01 AM EDT
To: leahbroder@gmail.com

Dear Leah,

I've seen traffic guards come pretty close to getting hit by cars several times over the past seven years in the intersection of Broadway and Everett. I've seen cars drive dangerously fast down North Union and Everett St. If there is anything I can do to support this agenda please let me know. Unfortunately, I'm not able to attend the meeting tonight.

All the best,
Yael

From: "Wofsy, Steven" <wofsy@g.harvard.edu>
Subject: Crosswalks
Date: March 11, 2020 at 11:27:27 AM EDT
To: leahbroder@gmail.com

I am very uncomfortable watching Thompson students crossing Park St where there are no suitable cross walks painted. (I am an older resident whose kids are grown.)

One of my neighbors brought this up with Traffic and was told that there is not enough foot volume. I think the data were not collected when the kids are crossing and the cut-throughs are whizzing up the avenue in the morning.

I don't get the big deal about painting the lines to protect the students, on Park, Rawson, etc

SCW

From: scohen619@gmail.com
Subject: Traffic calming
Date: March 9, 2020 at 12:01:25 PM EDT
To: leahbroder@gmail.com

Hi,

I got an email from principal Donato about traffic calming measures around Thompson School. As a parent who sometimes walks my kid to school and sometimes drives, I found the entire experience to be very scary from both perspectives. I've always thought it was just a matter of time before an accident happens. I think that Everett Street needs to be a one-way street during school drop off and pick up times. Is this the sort of measure that is being considered? I don't think I'm going to be able to make the meeting!

Thanks,
Sara

On Wed, Mar 11, 2020 at 10:31 AM Sri Thumati <thumatis@yahoo.com> wrote:
Hi Leah,

Thanks for spear-heading this! I am not able to make it to the meeting tonight, however I have a big concern about the crosswalk on River Street. (It's the crosswalk where River St intersects with Cornell St and University St.)

Rose, who is the crossing guard there and I have spoken multiple times about how unsafe that crosswalk is. There are not enough signs and no way for people to slow down. This is a very busy pedestrian crosswalk and we especially need to take into consideration that a lot of children in 4th and 5th grade walk home alone. I live diagonally across from the crosswalk and seen many people drive by very fast while kids are waiting to cross.

If you could bring this up and see if there is a solution to making the River St crosswalk safer, it would be hugely appreciated by a lot of families at Thompson.

Thank you much!
Best,
Sri

Sri Thumati
Architecture & Interior Photographer
Cyanotype Artist

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From: Anna Magracheva <baron3@gmail.com>

Subject: Traffic

Date: March 11, 2020 at 9:48:24 AM EDT

To: leahbroder@gmail.com

Hi Leah,

Thanks so much for taking this on. It's certainly something I've often thought myself needs adjusting as it is a mess in the morning on the North Union Side where I come in from.

I was actually thinking of writing the town myself about this. I'm not sure what the solution is, but two problems that I've noticed is that at the light at North Union, because street parking is allowed there is often not enough space left for two way traffic. This leads people to be stuck on Broadway not able to turn onto North Union until the traffic on North Union has gone through the light. So people then either cut through the apartment complex (Heath St/Harris St), where there are kids walking to school, or they drive a little aggressively down North Union to try to get through before cars block their way again. My suggestion was going to be to take away those 3 or 4 street parking spots by asking the town to not allow street parking just on the part of North Union that is right adjacent to the Learn to Grow Childcare.

The other thing I've noticed is people double parking behind the teacher cars on North Union, but facing the wrong direction. So there are constantly cars on the wrong side of the street. People doing 180s there in the middle of kids arriving and traffic going in both directions.

Thanks for your efforts on this! Let me know if you need anything in writing or if there is any other way I can help. Unfortunately, my husband is not around tonight, so I cannot make the meeting.

Anna

From: Ted Shultz <ted@shultzonline.com>
Subject: Traffic around Thompson
Date: March 11, 2020 at 10:20:46 AM EDT
To: leahbroder@gmail.com

Hello Leah,
Thank you for talking to the TAC about the roads around Thompson!

I don't think I will be able to make the TAC meeting tonight, but this is a subject I am interested in. I've noticed quite a few cars speeding on North Union which makes me a little nervous with the playground and school. I really like how many kids walk/bike to school and would love to encourage more.

One idea that I would like to propose would be to change the cross walks on North Union by Norcross to a raised cross walk (also sometimes called a speed table).

If there are things I can do to help you, please let me know.
--ted

